

**TOWN OF GRANBY  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by First Selectman John Adams at 7:33 p.m.

**PRESENT: John Adams, Ronald Desrosiers, Sally King, Mark Neumann, William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager**

First Selectman Adams made an announcement that there would be a legislative forum taking place at the Senior Center this coming Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. Our local State Representative and Senators will be there to make a presentation and to answer questions. Everyone is welcome.

**I. PUBLIC SESSION**

No public addressed the Board.

**II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted (3-0-1) (abstention by Selectman King) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 21, 2011, as presented.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 22, 2011, as presented.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted (3-0-1) (abstention by Selectman King) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 4, 2011, as presented.

**III. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS**

No unfinished or tabled business was before the Board.

**IV. BUSINESS**

**A. Resignations and Appointments to be Considered**

First Selectman Adams reported there was a resignation received from Rochelle Reuben of the Conservation Commission, which creates three vacancies on this Commission.

The vacancy on the Library Board had been filled. Any one interested in filling a vacancy should contact either the Democratic Town Committee Chairman Peggy Chapple, or the Republican Town Committee Chairman B. Scott Kuhnly or the Town Manager's office for further information.

## **B. Consideration of Charter Revision Commission 2011**

By Charter, the Board of Selectmen must appoint a Charter Revision Commission prior to the biennial election of November 8, 2011. There is a requirement of at least five (5) but not more than 15 members. Previously there were seven members. It was decided there would be the same number of members this time. First Selectman Adams stated some previous members would like to serve again. Selectman Desrosiers stated we also need new members. The framework to develop this commission would be developed by Town Manager Smith and he indicated he would have this by the next meeting.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to instruct Town Manager Smith to develop the framework for selection of such a Charter Revision Commission. The framework involves nominations for appointees to the commission, a timetable for reporting back to the Board of Selectmen, a charge to the commission to consider potential revision items, and a reporting schedule.

The Charter revision will be voted on at the 2012 election.

## **C. Consideration of Resolution for STP-Urban Funding Request for Sidewalks**

The town has been given an opportunity to apply for STP-Urban funding. Because of timing, the application has already been delivered to the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). A resolution is required to be adopted by the Board of Selectmen no later than September 19, 2011.

The request is for a proposed sidewalk extension along Salmon Brook Street from Hartford Avenue to Salmon Brook Park and a small portion of sidewalk on the south side of Hartford Avenue from Salmon Brook Street to connect at Granby Pharmacy.

The grant request is for \$382,092 of which the local share would be 20% or \$76,418.

There was discussion among the Selectmen with regard to snow removal on the new sidewalks. A town ordinance requires property owners to remove snow from sidewalks in front of their property. Town Manager Smith mentioned a possible "hold property owners harmless" for a few years. Selectman Desrosiers asked if we need homeowner's permission to install sidewalks in front of their property and although Town Manager Smith didn't think so, it is decided we need to be sure.

First Selectman Adams thinks we might have a decision from the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) in 3 months. The project, if approved, could then start next year.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adopt the resolution below, authorizing Town Manager Smith to apply for funding under the STP-Urban Program and to execute any documents necessary to obtain such funding.

**WHEREAS**, Federal monies are available under the federally funded STP-Urban Program, administered by the Capitol Region Council of Governments; and

**WHEREAS**, It is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Granby make application for STP-Urban Program Funding for a specific project known as **Proposed Sidewalk Extension from Town Center to Salmon Brook Park**; and

**WHEREAS**, Funding for stand-alone sidewalk projects is 80% federal and 20% town for all project phases and the town agrees to funding the project as required and further agrees to provide all necessary inspection and recordkeeping for the project; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Granby is making application to the Capitol Region Council of Governments for a specific project known as **Proposed Sidewalk Extension from Town Center to Salmon Brook Park**; and

**WHEREAS**, the Capitol Region Council of Governments requires a resolution from the Granby Board of Selectmen supporting this project proposal;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Granby Authorize the Town Manager, William F. Smith, Jr., to apply for funding under the STP-Urban Program and to execute any documents necessary to obtain such funding.

#### **D. Discussion on Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority and Granby's Options**

The town became a member of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) in 2010. The authority has given guidance and has ultimately gone out to solicit bids for waste removal and recycling before our contract expires with the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority (CRRRA). Initially there were eight to ten (8/10) proposals received. Analysis of the proposals indicated there were serious flaws with many of the responses. There was a recommendation for Granby to sign up for three years with CRRRA for trash and with Murphy Road Recyclers for recycling. The price sounds good for now, but the vendors could raise their prices when it comes time to renew in three years. If that happens, it could end up costing us more in the long run.

It was indicated that First Selectman Adams and Town Manager Smith would further review Granby's options and hope to have some answers by the end of September.

### **IV. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS**

#### **A. Police Chief Appointment**

Town Manager Smith reported that he tried to get Chief Watkins to change his mind several times about retiring, but to no avail.

The recruitment and selection of a new Police Chief is now complete. The town received over 30 applications and after careful review, a smaller list of candidates was developed. Interviews were conducted along with various testing and background investigations. Following a second interview, a conditional offer was made and accepted. The successful candidate is Mr. Carl Rosensweig, who presently serves as Assistant Chief in the Town of West Hartford. We are looking forward to a successful transition with a start date somewhere close to October 1, 2011.

### **Aftermath Update on Hurricane Irene**

Hurricane Irene hit Granby on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately, the impact was not as severe as was expected. There was about 30% of the town that had power loss including portions of the Municipal Complex as well as the high school and middle school. The town had problems with its power generator services at two locations. The town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. It was staffed and monitored. A notification alert was sent out on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, to all residents using the State's emergency notification system (Everbridge). It was noted that some residents received the notification more than once. Town Manager Smith responded that the town is only responsible for the information in the notification message. The Everbridge notification system is managed by the state and is fairly new. They will probably have some bugs to work out each time the system is used.

The town did have some road flooding and as a result there were road closures. The volunteer CERT force was on standby but never activated. There was a local formal briefing held following the storm with all staff on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. This meeting reviewed the conditions during the alert readiness phase, the emergency phase, and the recovery phase. Appropriate action will be taken to address the areas that raised some concern.

Damage to town property happened mainly at Salmon Brook Park. There were washed out playground areas, damaged fencing, and a damaged parking lot.

## **VI. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (John Adams)**

### **A. Announcement of Board of Selectmen Student Liaison Program**

Each year the Board of Selectmen goes through several steps to initiate the Student Liaison program. It is first announced at the Board of Selectmen meeting. Any interested junior or senior student should contact Patricia Law, High School Principal or Maureen Herzig, School Secretary, at the high school to submit their name. Potential students are requested to submit a letter of interest telling how they believe serving as Granby's student liaison will benefit their career endeavors. The Board will then review the letters and when a decision is made, the student liaison will be notified informing him or her of the appointment. Applications should be in soon as the appointment will be made in early October.

### **B. Discussion on Update for Bonding and Referendum Needs**

There have been several capital projects pending, with the most pressing project being the replacement of the Silver Street Bridge. The town has faced many delays due to the state and federal approval processes. It now appears that in order for the project to begin next spring, we will have to hold a referendum. This will most likely be in December or early January.

The cost of the Silver Street Bridge is estimated at \$3,000,000, with a local estimate at \$600,000. Other projects include the Salmon Brook Pond House, Cossitt Library Land (purchase of abutting property for a septic system and parking), Library roof, Tennis Courts, and DPW Wash Bay. Total preliminary cost estimate for all projects

combined would be \$4,400,000 with a local estimate at \$1,800,000. Adding other projects at this time would give us the opportunity to take advantage of the very low bonding rates, which are available.

First Selectman Adams would like Town Manager Smith to review the list again and prepare transmittal to the Capital Program Priority Advisory Committee and to the Board of Finance for the steps necessary to move the process along.

**C. Proclamation Recognizing September as Leukemia, Lymphoma, and Myeloma Awareness Month**

First Selectman Adams recognized September as Leukemia, Lymphoma, and Myeloma awareness month.

**WHEREAS**, Blood cancers currently afflict more than 958,000 Americans with an estimated 137,000 new cases diagnosed each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma will kill an estimated 54,000 people in the United States this year; and

**WHEREAS**, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, through voluntary contributions, is dedicated to finding cures for these diseases through research efforts and the support for those that suffer from them; and

**WHEREAS**, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society maintains an office in the State of Connecticut to support patients with these diseases and their family members; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Granby is similarly committed to the eradication of these diseases and supports the treatment of its citizens that suffer from them; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Granby encourages private efforts to enhance research funding and education programs that address these diseases;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Town of Granby joins with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in designating the month of September 2011 as Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Awareness Month to enhance the understanding of blood related cancers and to encourage participation in voluntary activities to support education programs and the funding of research programs to find a cure for them.

**D. Proclamation-Senior Center Month**

First Selectman Adams is recognizing September as Senior Center Month.

**WHEREAS**, Older Americans are significant members of our society, investing their wisdom and experience to help enrich and better the lives of younger generations; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Granby Senior Center has acted as a catalyst for mobilizing the creativity, energy, vitality and commitment of the older residents of Granby; and

**WHEREAS,** Through the wide array of services, programs, and activities, senior centers empower older citizens of Granby to contribute to their own health and well-being and the health and well-being of their fellow citizens of all ages; and

**WHEREAS,** The Granby Senior Center in the Town of Granby, Connecticut affirms the dignity, self worth, and independence of older persons by facilitating their decisions and actions; tapping their experiences, skills, and knowledge; and enabling their continued contributions to the community;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. ADAMS,** by the powers vested in me as **First Selectman** of the **Town of Granby**, do hereby proclaim

#### **SEPTEMBER 2011 SENIOR CENTER MONTH**

and call upon all citizens to recognize the special contributions of the Senior Center participants, and the special efforts of the staff and volunteers who work every day to enhance the well-being of the older citizens of our community.

First Selectman Adams would like to remind everyone again of the legislative forum that will take place Thursday, September 8, 2011, 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. All are welcome.

**VII. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Sally King, Vice Chairman, Ronald Desrosiers, B. Scott Kuhnly, & Mark Neumann)**

No reports.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

ON A MOTION by First Selectman Adams, seconded by Selectman Desrosiers, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.  
Town Manager